

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 OMB-01 IO-10 AID-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00

OES-03 HEW-02 CU-02 ACDA-05 DHA-02 ORM-01 /103 W
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R 031000Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3563

INFT AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 386

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, ECIN, BY, RW, CG

SUBJECT: TRIPARTITE FONMINS RECOMMEND CREATION COMMUNITY STATES
OF GREAT LAKES

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THREE-DAY RWANDA, BURUNDI, ZAIRE TRI-
PARTITE MEETING ENDED KIGALI JUNE 21 WITH APPROVAL OF TEN
ACCORDS INCLUDING CONVENTION CREATING COMMUNAUTE ECONOMIQUE
DES PAYS DES GRANDS LACS (CEPGL) AND COMPLEMENTARY ACCORD
ON SECURITY. FOREIGN MINISTERS' COMMUNIQUE
EMPHASIZE CONTINUED HARMONY AND SOLIDARITY BETWEEN THREE
COUNTRIES, BUT PRIVATE GOR COMMENTS SUGGEST REALIST VIEW
THAT EMBARKING UPON MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN LONG-
TERM IS DEPENDENT ON POLITICAL STABILITY IN WHICH TRIPARTITE
COOPERATION ON INTERNAL SECURITY IS MAJOR TEST. END SUMMARY

2. KEYNOTE - RWANDAN PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA OPENED TRIPARTITE MTTG
JUNE 19-21 WHICH WAS PRECEDED BY PREPARATORY MEETING EXPERTS.
FONMINS RWANDA, BURUNDI AND ZAIRE PARTICIPATED WITH
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RELATIVELY LARGE DELEGATIONS. HABYARIMANA ADDRESS WAS

RATHER IMPASSIONED STATEMENT OF POTENTIAL ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF COOPERATION IF INTERNAL SECURITY PROBLEMS WOULD BE RESOLVED. PRESIDENT CALLED SUCCESSFUL START CEPGL ESPECIALLY URGENT AT TIME WHEN OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES FORMING ECONOMIC GROUPS. WORKING COMMITTEES OF EXPERTS, INCLUDING THOSE FORMED BUKAVU TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE, WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR GIVING CONCRETE BEGINNING TO PLANS. AT FIRST STEP CTTEE SHOULD IMPLEMENT BUKAVU AGREEMENT FOR INTERCHANGEABLE USE NATIONAL CURRENCIES ON FRONTIERS WITH ESTABLISHMENT EXCHANGE FACILITIES AND RELAXATION CUSTOMS BARRIERS. BOTH PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AND FINAL COMMUNIQUE INDICATE DESIRE INCLUDE OTHER GREAT LAKES COUNTRIES IN CEPGL, BUT RECOGNITION ALSO EXISTS THAT GEOGRAPHICAL CONSIDERATIONS LIMIT EVENTUAL EXPANSION.

3. ACCORDS - TEN ACCORDS COVERING WIDE VARIETY ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL TOPICS INITIALED BY MINISTERS SUBJECT TO FINAL APPROVAL BY RESPECTIVE CHIEFS OF STATE AT UNSPECIFIED FUTURE MEETING. MOST SIGNIFICANT APPEAR BE CONVENTION CREATING CEPGL AND COMPLEMENTARY ACCORD ON SECURITY. OTHER ACCORDS DESIGNED PROMOTE COMMON EFFORTS IN CEPGL, INCLUDING HEALTH MEASURES, TOURISM, AND CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION. AGREEMENT NOT REACHED ON PROPOSED SOCIAL SECURITY PROJECT AND CONVENTION ON CIVIL AND COMMERCIAL SUBJECTS. BOTH TO BE TOPICS FUTURE COMMISSION MEETINGS.

4. SECURITY - CONCERN FOR NATIONAL SECURITY APPEARED OVER-RIDING CONCERN IN SPEECHES AND SUBSTANCE AS REFLECTED IN COMPLEMENTARY ACCORD. RWANDAN PRESIDENT NOTED TRANQUILITY AND SECURITY ON BORDERS NECESSARY FOR COMMUNITY SUCCESS, THAT MOVEMENTS OF QUOTE CERTAIN ELEMENTS UNQUOTE HAVE CONSTITUTED SUBJECT OF DISCORD AND AGITATION IN PAST YEAR AND THAT THEREFORE THREE COUNTRIES MUST WATCH FOR QUOTE HYPOCRITICAL ACTIONS OF SUBVERSIVE AGENTS AND PARASITES UNQUOTE. COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCES THAT WORK ON QUOTE URGENT PRACTICAL MEASURES UNQUOTE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF ACCORD WILL BEGIN WITHIN 15 DAYS AFTER CONCLUSION OF MEETING TO GUARANTEE SECURITY RESPECTIVE NATIONAL LEADERS. STATEMENTS BY RWANDAN AND BURUNDI
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FONMINS REASSURE THOSE COUNTRIES WHO VIEW TRIPARTITE AS "THREATENING" AND NEED FOR AND ABILITY TROPARTITE COUNTRIES PROVIDE MUTUAL SUPPORT. COMMENT: COUNTRY ALLUSION IS YET UNCLEAR BUT PRESUMED REFER UGANDA.

5. REFUGEES - HABYARIMANA NOTED TRIPARTITE REPS MUST CONTINUE WORK FOR SOLUTION REFUGEE PROBLEM IN TRIPARTITE FRAMEWORK SO THAT IT WILL NOT CONTINUALLY EXACERBATE

RELATIONS. HE INDICATED DECISION HAD BEEN REACHED (AGAIN) TO MOVE REFUGEES FROM "BORDER AREAS" SO THAT THEY WILL NO LONGER BE QUOTE PERMANENT SUBJECT OF CONCERN UNQUOTE TO HOMELANDS.

6. COMMENT: RWANDAN REPS APPEAR PLEASED AT ACCELERATED PACE TRIPARTITE COOPERATION INCLUDING CEPGL BUT DON'T UNDERESTIMATE CONTINUING POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES WHICH COULD AFFECT CHIEFS OF STATE APPROVAL. MAIN IMMEDIATE PROBLEM PERCEIVED IS MUTUAL REFUGEE PROBLEM BETWEEN BURUNDI AND ZAIRE. RWANDA CONSIDERS IT (AND BURUNDI) HAVE GENERALLY ACTED IN GOOD FAITH ON THEIR REFUGEES AND ONLY TWO ZAIROIS POLITICAL TYPES ARE BELIEVED RESIDE RWANDA. A DISQUIETING ASPECT IS THAT EACH SIDE PREPARED LISTS OF PERSONS IT FOUND OBJECTIONABLE IN THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES AND GOR HAS ALREADY FORCED EMPLOYERS AT KIGALI AIRPORT (NOW A "BORDER AREA") TO SACK OR TRANSFER BURUNDI REFUGEES. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND ZAIRE INCLUDED A NUMBER OF BELGIANS WHO OVER THE YEARS HAVE SOUGHT REFUGE IN RWANDA. (RWANDA HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN HAVEN FOR EUROPEANS BUT HAS IN PAST YEAR QUIETLY EXPELLED THOSE WHO IN ITS VIEW HAD NO ASSETS OR WERE IMPRUDENT IN SPEECH AND ACTION.) SUBSEQUENT MEETING OF SECURITY EXPERTS WILL REVIEW LISTS FOR ACCURACY AND PRESUMABLY NEGOTIATE TRADE-OFFS. DEGREE TO WHICH RWANDA WILL BEND TO THE ZAIRE WIND ON THIS MATTER WILL BE INTERESTING TEST OF ZAIROIS INFLUENCE. WE SUSPECT RWANDA WILL SEEK SET EXAMPLE BY BENDING DEEPLY. FRITTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, ECONOMIC COOPERATION, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchant0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KIGALI00386
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750233-0580
From: KIGALI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750788/aaaadayv.tel
Line Count: 143
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <09 DEC 2003 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRIPARTITE FONMINS RECOMMEND CREATION COMMUNITY STATES OF GREAT LAKES
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, ECIN, BY, RW, CG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006